GUIDANCE FOR OPERATORS OF THRIFT AND OTHER RESALE STORES

We need your help in reducing preventable injuries and deaths!

Each year the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) works with manufacturers and distributors to recall 350 potentially defective or hazardous products. These include toys, nursery furniture and equipment, home appliances, clothing, power tools, sports equipment, and many other products that people use in and around their homes and in recreational settings.

We announce these recalls through the media and publicize them on our toll-free hotline and this Internet web site. Still, many consumers don't hear about the recalls and continue to use potentially dangerous products. Others are unaware that products that once were safe now are hazardous through prolonged use. When they're through with the products, they take them to thrift, consignment, or other second-hand stores for resale to other consumers.

CPSC recently conducted a study of thrift and other resale stores nationwide. We found that 69 percent sell hazardous products that have been recalled, banned, or don't meet current safety standards. Based on that study, we issued a safety checklist for consumers and thrift stores.

How can you help? Don't accept, buy, or sell hazardous consumer products.

Here's how you can find out whether products you are considering accepting, buying, or selling in your store may be hazardous or have been recalled, and what you should do with them:

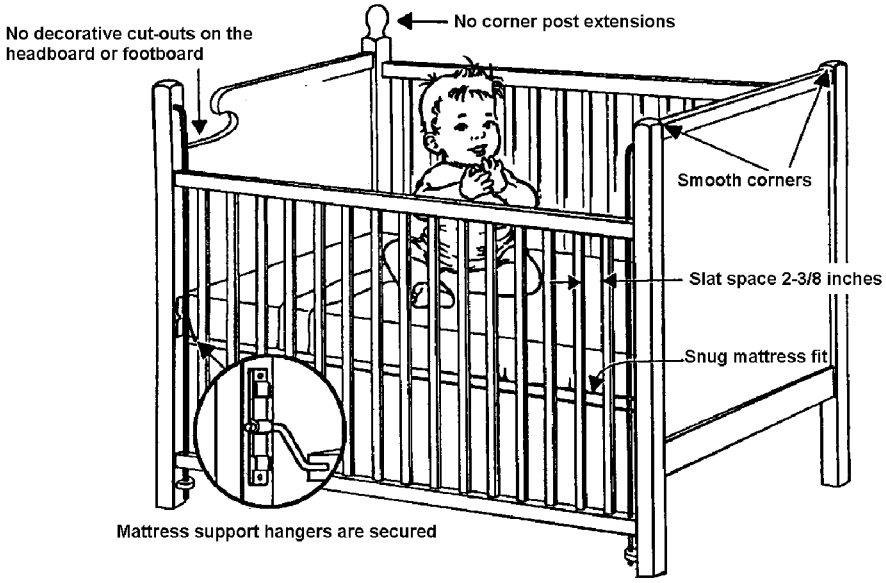
- Refer to CPSC's *Thrift Store Safety Checklist*.
- Use this CPSC guidance for thrift and resale stores to help you identify several types of potentially hazardous products that could harm children or others.
- Get CPSC's recall notices and other safety information automatically by subscribing to our e-mail list. Click here and enter the requested information.
- Check the recalls part of this web site for information on products recalled from 1989 to the present.
- Call CPSC's toll-free hotline (800/638-2772) for information on product recalls from 1973 to 1989.

CRIBS

THE PRODUCT: Used cribs that don't meet current safety standards.

THE HAZARDS: Suffocation, strangulation

More infants die each year in accidents involving cribs than from any other nursery product; about 40 deaths a year were reported over a recent four-year period. There also are about 9,500 crib-related injuries to infants and toddlers reported annually by hospital emergency rooms.



Crib

WHAT TO DO:

‣ Inspect each crib to be sure it has the following safety features:

- slats spaced no more than 2⅜ inches apart;

- no missing or loose slats;

- a properly sized mattresses. The mattress is too small if you can fit more than two fingers between the edge of the mattress and the side of the crib. An infant can get his head or body wedged in that space and suffocate.

- corner posts are no more than 1/16 inch high. They can be catch points for objects or clothing worn by a child and cause strangulation.

- no missing or broken hardware, and loose hardware that can't be tightened; and

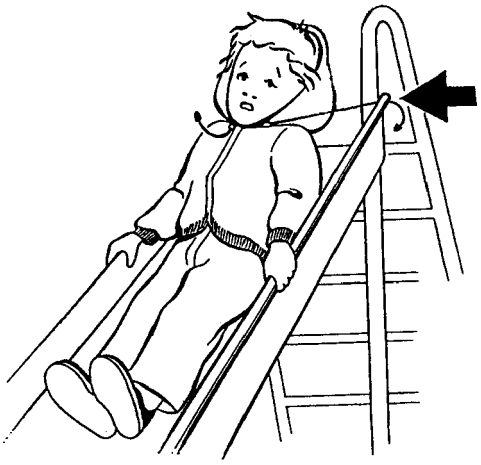
- no decorative cutouts in the headboard or footboard. Cutouts can entrap a child's head.

‣ Don’t sell cribs that have any of the hazards described in the list above. Destroy them.

CLOTHING DRAWSTRINGS

THE PRODUCT: Drawstrings in children's upper outwear found at the neck, waist, and/ or bottom, especially in jackets and sweatshirts made before 1995.

Since 1995, most children's jackets and sweatshirts have been made with no neck or hood drawstrings. Buttons, snaps, elastic, Velcro and other fasteners are being used instead of drawstrings.



Drawstring hazard

THE HAZARD: Strangulation, vehicular dragging

A hood or neck drawstring can catch on a stationary object, such as a playground slide or corner post on a crib, and cause a child to strangle.

A drawstring at the waist or bottom of a jacket or sweatshirt can catch on a school bus handrail or door and cause a child to be dragged and seriously injured.

Since 1985, there have been 22 deaths and 48 non-fatal incidents to children aged 14 months to 14 years that involved drawstrings.

WHAT TO DO:

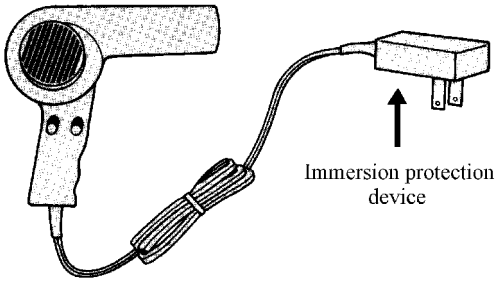
- Remove the drawstrings from the hood, neck, waist and bottom of all infants' and children's jackets and sweatshirts.

HAIR DRYERS

THE PRODUCT: Hair dryers that don't have immersion protection devices (see the illustration).

THE HAZARD: Electrocution

Electrical current is still present even when the dryer switch is in the "off" position. A hair dryer without an immersion protection device that is accidentally dropped into standing water (such as in a sink or bathtub) can electrocute anyone in or touching the water.



Hand-held hair dryer

Most new hand-held hair dryers have immersion protective devices. Many used ones do not.

There was an average of 18 electrocutions a year in the early 1980's involving hand-held hair dryers, before immersion protection devices were included in their design. Many of the deaths involved children under 10 years old.

WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect all hand-held hair dryers. Look for the following on each:

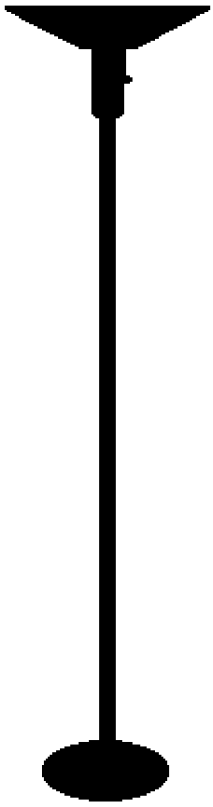
  - an *immersion protection device*, which is a large, rectangular-shaped plug at the end of the cord (see the illustration above); *and*

  - the *certification mark* of a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or ETL (Electrical Testing Laboratories), on the hair dryer itself.

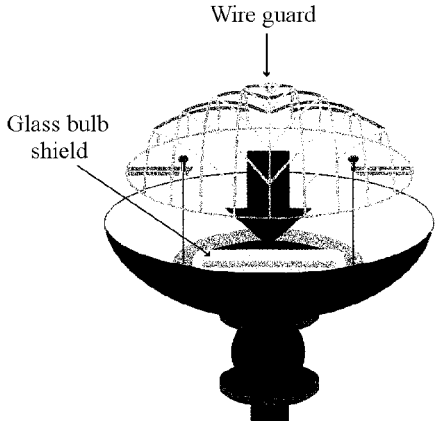
- Don't sell any hand-held hair dryer that doesn't have an immersion protection device *and* certification mark from a recognized testing laboratory. Destroy it.

HALOGEN FLOOR LAMPS

THE PRODUCT: Freestanding 6-ft.-tall floor lamps that use tubular halogen light bulbs (see illustrations at right).



Halogen floor lamp



THE HAZARD: Fire

A 300-watt halogen light bulb can heat up to nearly 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Any flammable material that contacts the bulb may catch fire. Since April 1998, CPSC is aware of at least 65 fires and 6 deaths involving halogen floor lamps.

UL-listed halogen floor lamps manufactured after February 5, 1997 are made with a wire or glass guard (see illustration at right). The guard fits over the glass bulb shield (see illustration) that covers the light bulb and reduces the potential fire hazard. The guard makes it harder for flammable materials to come in contact with the light bulb and catch fire.

WHAT TO DO:

▸Inspect each halogen floor lamp. Look for or at the following:

- a *wire or glass guard* over the glass bulb shield in the bowl at the top of the lamp. There should be a guard. [Free wire guards are available by calling (800) 985-2220.]

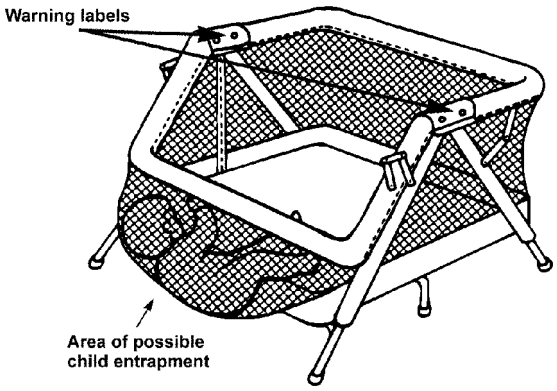
- *bulb wattage*. The tubular halogen light bulb should not be over 300 watts, even if the original label on the lamp says that a 500-watt bulb can be used.

- *the plug*. It should be polarized (one blade wider than the other).

- *signs of corrosion, bent or loose parts*. Any of these may indicate a malfunctioning or potentially hazardous lamp.

▸Don't sell any halogen floor lamp that doesn't have a wire or glass guard over the glass bulb shield or that has *any* of the other hazards above. Destroy it.

MESH-SIDED PLAYPENS, PLAY YARDS AND CRIBS, PORTABLE WOODEN CRIBS, WOODEN PLAYPENS



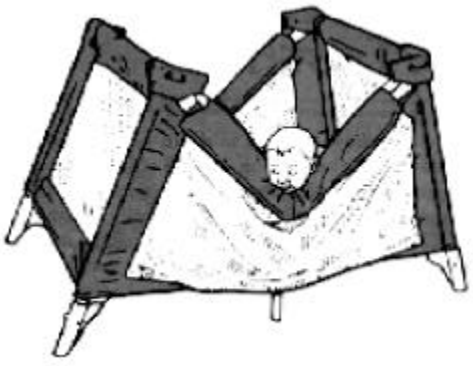
THE PRODUCTS: Mesh-sided and cribs, wooden playpens, and portable wooden cribs.

THE HAZARDS: Suffocation, strangulation, choking

Every year, about 1,700 children under 5 years old are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with these products, and five die.

The *side of a mesh playpen or portable crib left in the down position* forms a pocket that an infant can roll into, become trapped, and suffocate.

The *top rails* of a playpen or portable crib *with a rotating hinge* may collapse and form an acute V-shape that can entrap a child's neck and cause her to strangle.



Collapsed rail forms a hazardous V-shape

A toddler can strangle in a playpen with *protruding rivets* if a pacifier string or loose (or loosely woven) clothing catches on one.

An infant or toddler can get his head caught in *tears in the mesh* and strangle. A teething infant can chew off pieces of the vinyl covering of a playpen's railing and choke.

A baby's body, except for the head, can pass entirely between the *slats* of a wooden playpen or portable wooden crib that are *more than 2⅜ inches apart*, and the baby may strangle.

WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect all mesh-sided playpens/play yards and portable cribs, and playpens with wooden side slats for the following safety criteria:

  - mesh-sided playpens and portable cribs with drop sides have warning labels that say the sides should never be left in the down position;

- top rails of mesh-sided playpens and cribs with a hinge in the center automatically lock when the rails are lifted into the normal use position;

- mesh-sided playpens have no rivets protruding 1/16 inch or more on the outside of the top rails;

- the mesh has a small weave (the openings are less than ¼ inch);

- the mesh has no tears or loose threads;

- the mesh is securely attached to the top rail and floor plate;

- the covering of the top rails have no tears or holes; *and*

- any staples used in construction are not loose or missing.

- Wooden playpens and portable wooden cribs have slats that are no more than 2 ⅜ inches apart.

▸ Don’t sell playpens and portable cribs that don't meet the safety criteria above. Destroy them.

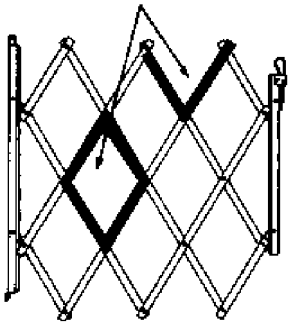
ACCORDION STYLE BABY GATES

THE PRODUCT: Expandable, accordion-style areas baby gates with large openings, made until 1985. (See the illustration at right.)

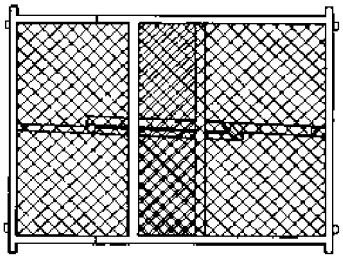
Baby gates are meant to prevent toddlers from falling down stairs or entering unsafe areas through doorways.

Baby gates manufactured since 1985 are safer. They have openings too small to entrap a child's head. Most are straight across the top and have a pressure bar or other fastener that can resist the forces exerted by a small child. (See the illustration below.)

Potential head-entrapment areas



UNSAFE: Accordion-style baby gate



SAFER: Non-accordion style baby gate, made since 1985

THE HAZARDS: Head entrapment, strangulation

When toddlers try to climb over or through accordion-style gates, their heads can get caught in the large V-shaped and diamond-shaped openings and they can strangle.

Each year about 1,500 children under 5 years old suffer injuries related to baby gates. At least nine children have died, and there have been 25 near-fatalities.

WHAT TO DO:

‣ Don't sell expandable accordion-style baby gates with large openings. Destroy them.

COMBINATION INFANT CAR SEATS/CARRIERS

THE PRODUCT: Certain models of combination infant car seats/carriers manufactured by Evenflo, Cosco, and Kolcraft that also can be used as infant carriers outside a vehicle.

Evenflo On My Way

THE HAZARDS: Skull fracture, concussion, cuts, scrapes, bruises

When used as an infant carrier, the handle locks on each side of the seat can release without warning or can move and cause the seat to rotate suddenly.

There have been 160 reported injuries to infants. These injuries happened whether the children were buckled in or not.

Cosco Arriva

Cosco Turnabout

Kolcraft representative models

WHAT TO DO:

▸ Inspect the label on the side of each infant car seat/carrier and look for the following:

- the *manufacturer's* name: Evenflo, Cosco, or Kolcraft, and

- the *model* name (may not appear) and *date*:

  -- On My Way (Evenflo), any date between December 15, 1995 and July 27, 1997;

  -- Arriva, Turnabout (Cosco), any date between March 1, 1995 and September 9, 1997; or

-- Infant Rider, Secura, Travel-About, Plus 4, Plus 5, Kolcraft Infant Restraint, Kolcraft Infant Car Seat, Playskool Infant Car Seat (Kolcraft) and any date between January 1, 1993 and June 30, 1999

- Contact CPSC* if you have a recalled infant car seat/carrier with one of the manufacturer's names above on it, or if you think it's one of the models listed above. CPSC can tell you if it has been recalled and if it can be repaired to make it safe . [*Check the recalls section of this web site, send an e-mail to info@cpsc.gov, or call CPSC's toll-free hotline, 800-638-2772]

- Don't sell a recalled infant car seat/carrier made by one of the three manufacturers named above and/or that is one of the models above without checking with CPSC. If you find out the carrier has been recalled and you can't fix it, destroy it.

BUNK BEDS FOR CHILDREN

THE PRODUCT: Bunk beds for children that don't meet current safety standards.

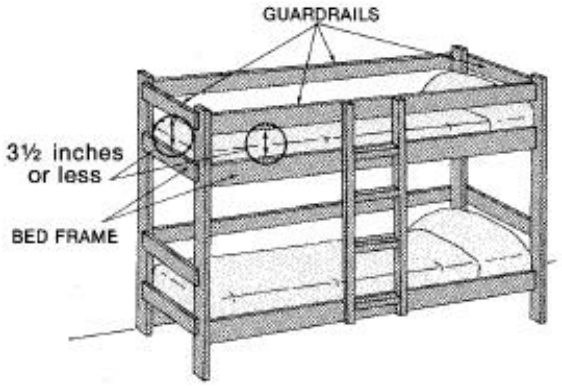
THE HAZARDS: Strangulation, suffocation, internal injuries

Since 1990, 57 young children have died by strangling or suffocating in bunk beds. Most were 3 years old or younger.

Some children strangled because their bodies, but not their heads, slid between a side guardrail and the side rail of the upper bunk, leaving their bodies hanging.

Some became trapped in openings within the footboard or headboard, or between the bed and the wall.

A few children died when the bed collapsed on top of them.



Bunk beds

WHAT TO DO:

▸Inspect each bunk bed and look for the following safety features:

- a guardrail along each side of the top bunk, with no more than 15 inches from either the footboard or headboard;
- no more than 3½ inches between the guardrail and bed frame;
- in the top bunk, there is no more than 3½ inches between the slats or rails in the headboard and footboard;
- in the lower bunk, there is either less than 3½ inches or more than 9 inches between the slats or rails in the headboard and footboard;
- if there is a mattress, it is the size specified in the warning label on the bed;
- the top of the mattress is at least 5 inches below the upper edge of the guardrails;

- mattress supports of upper and lower beds are securely fastened to the bed by screws or bolts; and

- in tubular metal bunk beds, there are no breaks or cracks in the paint or metal around the welds that hold the side rail to the bed frame at all 4 corners of the upper and lower bunks.

▸ Don't sell any bunk beds that don't meet these safety criteria. Destroy them.

TOY BASKETBALL NETS

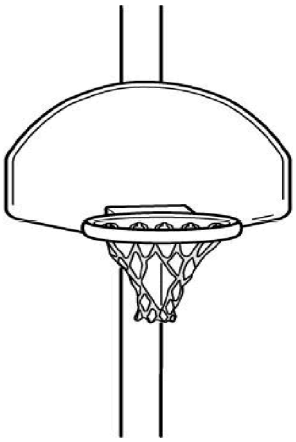
THE PRODUCT: Toy basketball nets that unhook from the rim or have knots that slide (see illustrations); sold as part of toy basketball sets.

Net that unhooks from the rim

THE HAZARD: Strangulation

Children under 5 years old can get their heads and necks caught in nets that come partially unhooked from the rim or have knots that slide. Both create large openings in which young children can get their heads caught.

There have been 20 reports of young children getting their heads and necks caught in toy basketball nets, and one death of a 1½-year-old child.



Net with knots that slide

WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect each toy basketball net attached to a hoop and check for the following:

  - it unhooks from the rim of the hoop, *or*

  - it has knots that slide

- Don't sell any toy basketball net that unhooks from the rim *or* that has knots that slide. Destroy it.

BEAN BAG CHAIRS

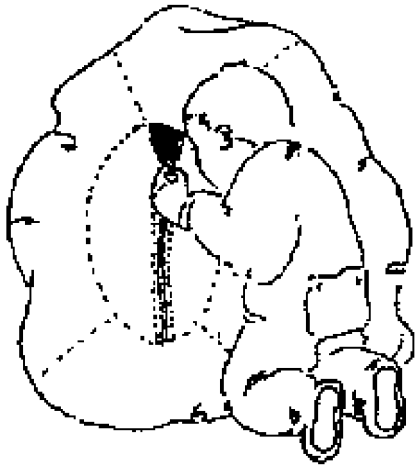
THE PRODUCT: Zippered bean bag chairs stuffed with small foam pellets.

THE HAZARD: Suffocation, choking

Some children unzip a bean bag chair, crawl inside, inhale or ingest the foam pellets, and they suffocate. Some unzip the chairs, then pull out the foam pellets and play with them. The pellets clog their mouths and noses, and they suffocate. Other children choke on the pellets but survive.

There have been 5 reported deaths and 26 non-fatal incidents associated with bean bag chairs. The children ranged in age from 14 months to 14 years old.

Since 1996, refillable bean bag chairs have been manufactured with zippers that young children can't open.



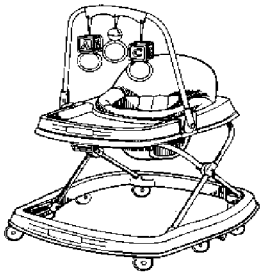
Zippered bean bag chair

WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect each zippered bean bag chair for the following:
  - the zipper can't be opened by young children
  - no stuffing is coming out
- Pull at the chair's seams. They shouldn't come apart. If they do, the foam pellets could escape, posing a hazard to children.
- Don't sell any zippered bean bag chair that doesn't meet these safety criteria. Destroy it.

BABY WALKERS

THE PRODUCT: Out-of-date baby walkers that fit through standard doorways or don't stop at the top of stairs. (See illustration at right.)



Out-of-date baby walker

Two new, safer styles of baby walkers meet a new safety standard. The new styles are designed to help prevent falls down stairs and injuries. (See illustrations below.)

The first new style of baby walker has a base that is wider than a normal 36-inch doorway.

The second new style of baby walker has rubber-like strips underneath or around the base that grip the floor and stop the walker at the edge of a step. This style has two different types of wheels: round casters and regular wheels.

First new style: safety features, such as a gripping mechanism, stop walker at edge of step

THE HAZARDS: Cuts, bruises, broken bones, skull fracture, concussion, internal injuries, death

More children are injured in baby walkers than with any other nursery product. In 1998 alone, walkers were associated with an estimated 11,000 injuries to children younger than 15 months that had to be treated in hospital emergency rooms. Most of these injuries resulted from falls down stairs. Since 1973, walkers have been involved in at least 34 deaths.

Second new style: base is too wide to fit through doorway

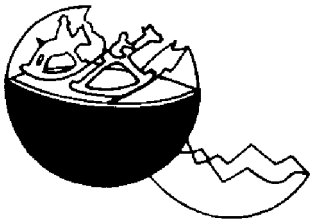
WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect each walker. Each should either be at least 36 inches wide at the base or have gripping strips and special wheels to help stop it at the edge of a step.

- Don't sell baby walkers unless they have one of these new safety features. Destroy them.

TOYS: SMALL PARTS AND SHARP EDGES

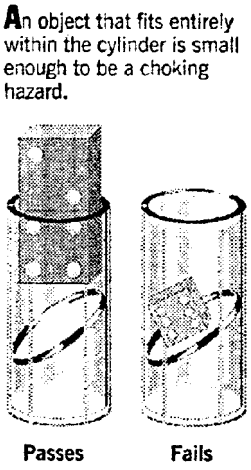
THE PRODUCTS: Small toys that can be swallowed or caught in a young child's throat; toys that have small parts or can break into small parts, such as eyes and noses from stuffed animals and dolls, or removable squeakers on squeeze toys; small balls; and toys that can break and expose cutting edges.



Toy with small parts and sharp edges

THE HAZARDS: Fatal choking, cuts

In 1998, there were 69,100 toy-related injuries to children under 5 years old treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. There were 14 toy-related deaths. Of these, 8 involved either balloons, a small ball, small toys, or toy parts.



Small-parts tester

WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect all toys and games designed for children under three years old for the following hazards:

  - small parts less than 1¼ inches in diameter that are loose, such as eyes and noses on stuffed toys and dolls;

  - small balls less than 1¾ inches in diameter; and

  - breakage or obvious signs of structural weakness that might expose small parts, sharp edges or points that could cause young children to choke or cut themselves.

- Use a small parts tester* (see the illustration above) or an empty toilet paper roll to determine whether a toy or toy part is small enough to be a choking hazard to a young child. If the item fits entirely inside, it's a potential choking hazard.

- Don't sell any toys that pose choking hazards for young children or have any of the other hazards described above. Destroy them.

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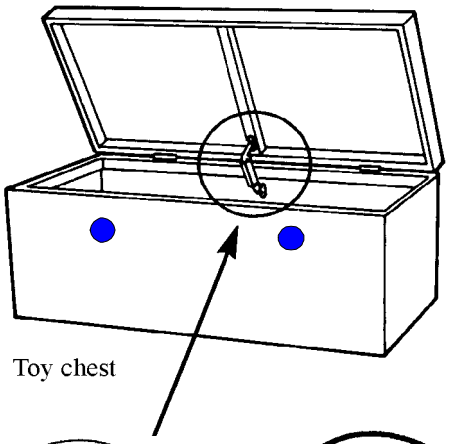
* Sold at many stores that sell items for babies and young children.

TOY CHESTS

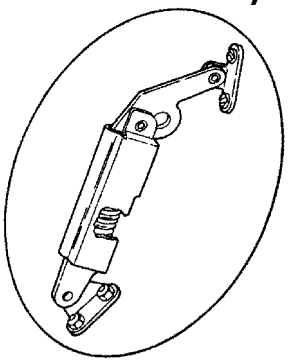
THE PRODUCT: Chests and boxes with hinged lids made or used to store toys. This includes those specifically manufactured for toy storage, as well as trunks, cedar chests, wicker chests, footlockers, decorator cubes, wooden storage chests, and other similar items.



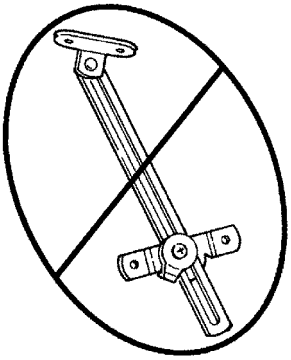
Toy chest

THE HAZARDS: Brain damage, suffocation, death

Lids can fall on children's heads or necks, causing brain damage or death. Children who climb inside hinged chests or boxes to hide or sleep can suffocate due to lack of air. Forty-five children have died and at least three have suffered permanent brain damage. Most victims were under 2 years old.



SAFE: Spring-loaded lid support



UNSAFE: Adjustable-friction lid support

WHAT TO DO:

- Inspect every toy chest and other toy storage unit with a hinged lid to be sure it meets *all* of the following safety criteria:

  - It has a spring-loaded lid support that will keep the lid open in any position, without adjustment (see illustration above);

  - it has no latch that could trap a child inside the chest; *and*

  - it has two or more ventilation holes or openings near the top of the front or sides.

- Don't sell toy chests or other large hinged boxes or chests that could be used for toy storage if they don't meet the safety criteria above. Destroy them.

LAMPS

THE PRODUCT: Freestanding portable floor lamps and table lamps that use incandescent bulbs. [*See separate page for guidance on halogen floor lamps*.]

Freestanding portable lamps

THE HAZARDS: Fire, electrocution, shock, burns

Lamps and light bulbs cause over 3,500 fires a year, about 23 deaths, and 170 injuries a year. In addition, about 10 electrocutions are caused by lamps and light fixtures annually.

WHAT TO DO:

▸Inspect *every* lamp for the following:

- *the plug*. It should be polarized (one blade wider than the other).

- *signs of corrosion, bent or loose parts*. Any of these may indicate a malfunctioning or potentially hazardous lamp.

- *bulb wattage*. It should not be higher than 60 watts unless the lamp itself indicates a higher wattage can be used. *(See separate page for guidance on bulb wattage for halogen floor lamps.)*

- *bulb size/shape*. The bulb surface should not come within ¼ inch of the lamp shade, harp, or any other surface of the lamp.

- *the sockets*, for signs of overheating. Signs of overheating are typically found on the paper or fiber insulation between the outer brass part and the inner screw shell of the socket.

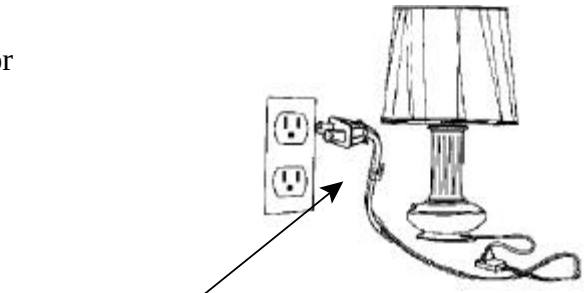
▸Don't sell any freestanding portable lamps using incandescent bulbs to consumers if they have any of the hazards above that you can't or won't correct. Destroy them.

EXTENSION CORDS

THE PRODUCT: Household and power/outdoor extension cords for lamps, computers, household appliances, power equipment, other electrical products.

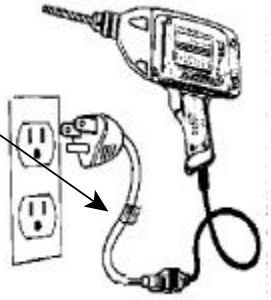
THE HAZARDS: Fire, shock, electrocution

Each year, about 2,500 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries involving extension cords. There are about 3,200 fires annually related to extension cords; 50 people die, 210 are injured. Products frequently involved with extension cord fires include electric heaters, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, Christmas decorations, lamps, lighting equipment, fans, and televisions.



Household extension cord

Certification label



Power/outdoor extension cord

WHAT TO DO:

▸Inspect *every* extension cord for the following safety criteria:

- a permanently attached certification label, usually near the plug (see illustration above), from an independent testing laboratory, such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or ETL (Electrical Testing Laboratories);

- for household two-wire extension cords, a polarized plug with two flat prongs, one wider than the other;

- for power and outdoor three-wire extension cords, a grounding plug with three prongs -- two flat, one round;

- a firm, solid connection between the cord and the plug;

- no exposed or loose wires;

- no cracks, corrosion, or other obvious signs of wear;

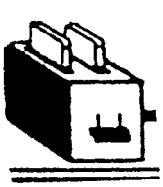
- information on the cord's electrical capacity in amperes and watts (look for it on the certification label itself or on another permanently attached label nearby); *and*

- the wire size printed or stamped on the cord. Look for 16/2, 16/3, or a smaller number, such as 14 or 12. If you see 18 stamped on the cord, the cord may not be able to carry electrical current needed to operate many appliances safely.

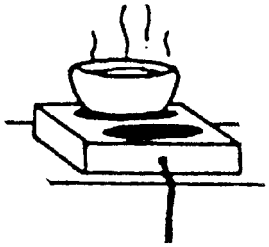
▸Don't sell any extension cord by itself or as part of any electrical product unless it meets all of the safety criteria above. Destroy it.

SMALL ELECTRICAL KITCHEN APPLIANCES

THE PRODUCTS: Toasters, toaster ovens, electric skillets, coffee makers, small deep-fat fryers, waffle irons, and hot plates.



Toaster



Hot plate

THE HAZARDS: Shock, electrocution, burns, fire

Small electrical kitchen appliances cause more than 20 deaths, 170 injuries, and 4,000 fires reported annually. Property loss from these fires amounts to more than $23 million a year.

WHAT TO DO:

▸Inspect each appliance. Don't sell any appliance that doesn't meet *all* of the following safety criteria:

- *a certification mark.* It should be from a recognized testing laboratory (such as Underwriters Laboratories or Electrical Testing Laboratories) and be on the appliance itself, *not* just on the cord.

- *the exterior metal surface.* There should be no corrosion, cracking, deformation, or severe discoloration.

- *loose parts.* Shake the appliance. Nothing should rattle around inside.

- *the plugs.* There should be no discoloration or deterioration of the plastic between the blades of the plug or damage to the plug or power cord, such as severely bent plug blades or abrasion to the cord. For detachable cords, the fit between the plug and the appliance should be snug.

- *the feet or built-in supports* on which the appliance rests. There should be no damaged, cracked, chipped, loose or missing feet or supports, or loose or missing hardware that attaches the feet to the appliance.

- *the handles.* They shouldn't be loose or missing.

▸Test* for potential shock and electrocution hazards, as follows:

- If possible, dedicate an existing *15- or 20-ampere branch circuit*[1] (see bottom of last page for more information) from the electrical panel in your building for the testing. If you can't do that, use a UL-listed portable power strip with built-in circuit breaker. [Be aware that if you use a portable power strip with built-in circuit breaker, there's a greater risk of tripping a branch circuit if the appliance you're testing is faulty.]

- Plug the appliance into a *portable GFCI* [2] (ground fault circuit interrupter) that's plugged into an outlet on the dedicated branch circuit or, if you're using one, the portable power strip. Don't bypass the GFCI by plugging the appliance directly into the outlet itself.

- For appliances with metal exteriors, attach the clip at one end of an *insulated test lead* [3] to any metal part of the outside. Clip or touch the other end of the test lead to a grounded object, such as a metal cold water pipe or a metal electrical conduit.

- Turn on and operate the appliance. The GFCI shouldn't trip the circuit.

▸Test* for potential burn and fire hazards, as follows:

- Test each appliance at each of its settings. For example, a toaster oven should operate properly at both the "bake" and "toast" settings.

- Turn each heat-producing appliance that contains a fan on and off at least a dozen times. The fan should start turning immediately and operate continuously, smoothly, and quietly.

- Check that appliances turn on and shut off when they are supposed to. For example, a coffee maker with a built-in clock-timer should turn on at the pre-set time, then automatically turn off; toast in a toaster should pop up before it burns.

Extra Safety Test

- Touch the appropriate *temperature indicator stick* [4] to each appliance. The stick shouldn't melt. If it does, it may be a sign that the appliance is overheating or otherwise malfunctioning. Here are guidelines for which temperature indicator stick to use:

    - 150° F stick for knobs and handles of cooking and heating appliances
    - 200° F stick for containers for cooking appliances, such as the carafe of a coffee maker

- 250° F stick for surfaces near the heating element or cooking surface of toasters, toaster ovens, electric skillets, coffee makers, small deep-fat fryers, waffle irons, and hot plates

▸Don't sell any appliance if it fails any of these tests *or* if it doesn't meet *all* the safety criteria described on the first page.

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*_Test equipment needed_:

[1] *15- or 20-ampere branch circuit.* Conducts electricity between the panel and selected outlets. Consists of selected outlets connected by wires to a single 15- or 20- ampere circuit breaker or fuse in a building's electrical panel. Usually several branch circuits are in each circuit breaker or fuse panel. (Or, a UL-listed portable power strip with built-in circuit breaker; sold at many hardware, home, and electrical supply stores.)

[2] *Portable GFCI.* Sold at many hardware, home, and electrical supply stores.

[3] *Insulated test lead.* A wire covered nearly to the ends with rubber or other material (to protect against shock) that's long enough to reach between two electrical outlets, with a metal clip or probe at each end. Insulated test leads, or materials to make one, sold at many hardware and electrical supply stores.

[4] *Temperature indicator sticks* to measure 150° F, 200° F, and 250° F. Sold by commercial equipment and supply companies.